

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-02  
L-03 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00  
EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04  
USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 CG-00 ACDA-10 PRS-01 FEA-01  
DOTE-00 SMI-01 /156 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:CHSANDERS:SRS  
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:HSPIELMAN  
OES/SPA:AMB.BREWSTER (SUBS)  
PA:PPERENYI (INFO)

-----201601Z 110723 /47

R 192232Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMB

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PFOR, SENV, XV

SU3JECT: U.S. RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC SEALS

REFERENCE: STATE 11015

1. FOL0OWING FYI IS DEPARTMENT'S PRESS RELEASE REGARDING U.S. RATIFICATION OF SUBJECT CONVENTION, REFERRED TO IN REFTEL ON SUBJECT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ON DECEMBER 28, 1976, PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC SEALS. THE CONVENTION WAS CONCLUDED IN LONDON IN 1972 AMONG THE TWELVE NATIONS PARTY TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY WHICH ITSELF PROVIDES NO PROTECTION FOR SEALS IN THE WATER AND ON THE SEA ICE IN ANTARCTICA; THE EFFECT OF THIS CONVENTION WILL BE TO RECTIFY THAT SITUATION. ALTHOUGH COMMERCIAL SEALING HAS NOT YET BEGUN IN THE ANTARCTIC, THE SEALS THERE HAVE BEEN VULNERABLE TO THE POSSIBLE ONSET AT ANY TIME OF UNCONTROLLED EXPLOITATION. THE CONVENTION IS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE INTENDED TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE SEALS WELL BEFORE A STAGE COULD BE REACHED AT WHICH THEIR SURVIVAL MIGHT BECOME SERIOUSLY THREATENED. THE CONVENTION HAS AS BASIC OBJECTIVES THE PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION, SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND RATIONAL USE OF THE SEALS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECTS ON THE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM. IT PROVIDES COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR THE ROSS SEAL, THE SOUTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL AND THE FUR SEAL; AND IT SETS VERY CONSERVATIVE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE OTHER THREE OF THE SIX KNOWN ANTARCTIC SPECIES, THE CRABEATER, LEOPARD AND WEDDELL SEALS, ALL OF WHICH ARE MORE PLENTIFUL. RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE CONVENTION IS ASSIGNED TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH (SCAR), WHICH IS THE PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODY

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UNDER THE ANTARCTIC TREATY. PROVISION IS MADE FOR ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL CONTROLS BEYOND THOSE INSTITUTED BY THIS AGREEMENT, SHOULD COMMERCIAL SEALING GET UNDERWAY IN THE ANTARCTIC. EACH OF THE PARTIES MAY ADOPT MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS FOR ITSELF THAN ARE PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONVENTION, AS THE U.S. HAS ALREADY DONE IN THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1972.

SIGNATORIES TO THE CONVENTION INCLUDE ALL 12 OF THE ORIGINAL ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTIES: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CHILE, FRANCE, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, SOUTH

AFRICA. UK, U.S. AND THE USSR. FOUR OF THESE, FRANCE, SOUTH AFRICA

NORWAY, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UK SO FAR HAVE COMPLETED RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION; UPON DEPOSIT OF ITS RATIFICATION, THE U.S. WILL BE THE FIFTH NATION TO HAVE DONE SO. RATIFICATION BY 7 OF THE 12 SIGNATORY NATIONS IS NECESSARY FOR THE CONVENTION TO ENTER INTO FORCE. END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSERVATION, ENDANGERED SPECIES, SPECIES PROTECTION, TREATY RATIFICATION, SEALS (ANIMAL), FUR BEARING ANIMALS, PRESS RELEASES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** 8c0308d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 11015  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**To:** BERN MOSCOW MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8c0308d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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